

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02706 161955Z

66

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 047720

R 161813Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2706

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, XF, IS

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF MAALOT INCIDENT ON ISRAELI ATTITUDES

1. SUMMARY: AT LEAST OVER SHORT TERM, INCIDENT OF SUCH TRAGIC PROPORTIONS AS MAALOT IS LIKELY TO DEEPEN ISRAELI POPULAR SUSPICIONS OF PALESTINIANS, SYRIA, AND EVEN EGYPT. IN THIS CONNECTION, ISRAELI BROADCAST TODAY CLAIMED RADIO CAIRO YESTERDAY CALLED FOR FEDAYEEN HOLDING MAALOT SCHOOLHOUSE TO INFLECT AS MANY CASUALTIES AS POSSIBLE. WE ALSO SENSE FATALISTIC INCLINATION AMONG MANY ISRAELIS TO ATTRIBUTE COUNTRY'S WOES IN LAST ANALYSIS TO MALEVOLENT SOVIET BEHIND-SCENES ROLE, AND IF SOVIET REACTION TO MAALOT IS SILENT OR AMBIGUOUS, IT CAN ONLY ENHANCE THIS TREND IN PUBLIC OPINION HERE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02706 161955Z

2. SOME ISRAELI CONTACTS HAVE VOICED CONCERN TO US THAT ONE

IMPORTANT EFFECT ON ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION OF TRAGIC FEDAYEEN SEIZURE OF MAALOT SCHOOL YESTERDAY MAY BE TO DEEPEN ISRAELI SUSPICION OF SYRIA, REDUCE ISRAELI INCLINATION TO CREDIT EGYPT WITH PEACEFUL INTENTIONS, AND DESTROY ANY ISRAELI RECEPTIVITY TO SUGGESTION THAT THERE IS GROWING BODY OF RELATIVELY MODERATION OPINION WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT. OUR CONTACTS HAVE ALSO SAID ISRAELIS WILL BE WATCHING SOVIET REACTION TO INCIDENT CLOSELY, AND ANY SOVIET AMBIGUITY WILL REINFORCE VIEWPOINT HELD BY MANY ISRAELIS THAT MOSCOW ULTIMATELY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARAB HOSTILE ACTIONS TOWARD ISRAEL.

3. ISRAELI RADIO MAY 16 RAN COMMENTARY WHICH BORE OUT THESE CONCERNS WITH REMARKABLE THOROUGHNESS. COMMENTATOR ASERTEED THAT CAIRO RADIO MORNING OF MAY 15 HAD CARRIED COMMENTARY CALLING ON THE THREE FEDAYEEN WHO HAD SEIZED MAALOT SCHOOL TO INFLICT AS MANY CASUALTIES AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO FORCE ISRAEL TO RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. "EVEN EGYPT," ISRAELI COMMENTATOR SAID, THUS APPROVED OF FEDAYEEN TERRORISM OF MOST REPREHENSIBLE KIND, AND NOT ONE SINGLE ARAB GOVERNMENT HAD CRITICIZED ACTION AT MAALOT. COMMENTATOR CONTINUED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SO MANY INDICATIONS OF PLO COORDINATION (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE HERE WAS TO FEDAYEEN HANDLING OF PUBLICITY), NO ONE THIS TIME COULD ARGUE WITH ISRAELIS THAT THIS WAS MERELY ISOLATED ACT OF SMALL FRINGE FEDAYEEN SPLITTER GROUP. THIS PUT LIE TO SUGGESTION THAT FATAH AND PDFLP WERE CONSIDERING NEW MODERATE POLICIES TOWARD ISRAEL. FURTHERMORE, SINCE ENTIRE PLO WAS IMPLICATED, SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AMONG OTHERS PROBABLY WAS IMPLICATED TOO, OR AT MINIMUM MUST HAVE HAD DETAILED ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATION.

4. FINALLY, COMMENTATOR SAID, THERE WAS ATTITUDE OF USSR. VERY FACT GROMYKO HAD SAT DOWN IN RECENT DAYS WITH ARAFAT GAVE GENERAL SOVIET BLESSING TO FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS AS LONG AS USSR DID NOT COUPLE SUCH PRESTIGIOUS CONTACTS WITH PUBLIC CALL FOR TERRORIST RESTRAINT, IF NOT VOICING OUTRIGHT DISAPPROVAL OF ACTIONS ENDANGERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS. COMMENTATOR CLAIMED SOVIET MEDIA HAD ACTUALLY EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF KIRYAT SHMONA MASSACRE LAST MONTH AND NOTED THEY HAD BEEN SILENT SO FAR ON MAALOT TRAGEDY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02706 161955Z

KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740121-0977
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740541/aaaabjzz.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFECT OF MAALOT INCIDENT ON ISRAELI ATTITUDES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005